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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/786,828	02/25/2004	David Michael Anderson	200209284-1	5106

22879 7590 09/26/2006

HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY
P O BOX 272400, 3404 E. HARMONY ROAD
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ADMINISTRATION
FORT COLLINS, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER

WHITMORE, STACY

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2825

DATE MAILED: 09/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/786,828

Applicant(s)

ANDERSON, DAVID MICHAEL

Examiner

Stacy A. Whitmore

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 July 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 2/25/2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

FINAL ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. Claims 1-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee (US Patent 6,366,874).

2. As for the claims, Lee discloses the invention as claimed, including:

A method/system/ and computer platform for navigating through design information associated with an IC design, comprising:

A text based connectivity database structure including a plurality of design objects provided for said IC design [abstract; fig. 1, col. 2, line 55-67 – col. 3, line 39; col. 4, lines 3-20, col. 4, line 37- col. 5, line 26; col. 6 – col. 7, line 37]; and

A GUI structure supported by a browser engine that provides a command line interface for interrogating said connectivity database using at least a portion of a text based indicium supplied by a user for searching said connectivity database structure, wherein said text-based indicium is operable to be associated with one or more design objects of said connectivity database [abstract; fig. 1, col. 2, line 55-67 – col. 3, line 39; col. 4, lines 3-20, col. 4, line 37- col. 5, line 26; col. 6 – col. 7, line 37];

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A hierarchical tree arrangement [abstract; fig. 1, col. 2, line 55-67 – col. 3, line 39; col. 4, lines 3-20, col. 4, line 37- col. 5, line 26; col. 6 – col. 7, line 37];

A block name and expression [abstract; fig. 1, col. 2, line 55-67 – col. 3, line 39; col. 4, lines 3-20, col. 4, line 37- col. 5, line 26; col. 6 – col. 7, line 37];

Net name and expression [abstract; fig. 1, col. 2, line 55-67 – col. 3, line 39; col. 4, lines 3-20, col. 4, line 37- col. 5, line 26; col. 6 – col. 7, line 37];

Instance name [abstract; fig. 1, col. 2, line 55-67 – col. 3, line 39; col. 4, lines 3-20, col. 4, line 37- col. 5, line 26; col. 6 – col. 7, line 37]

Cell name [abstract; fig. 1, col. 2, line 55-67 – col. 3, line 39; col. 4, lines 3-20, col. 4, line 37- col. 5, line 26; col. 6 – col. 7, line 37];

Menu driven dialog boxes for selectively reversing said text-based connectivity database [abstract; fig. 1, col. 2, line 55-67 – col. 3, line 39; col. 4, lines 3-20, col. 4, line 37- col. 5, line 26; col. 6 – col. 7, line 37];

A user interface pane operable to display results obtained responsive to interrogating said text based connectivity database [abstract; fig. 1, col. 2, line 55-67 – col. 3, line 39; col. 4, lines 3-20, col. 4, line 37- col. 5, line 26; col. 6 – col. 7, line 37].

3. Applicant's arguments filed July 5, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

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mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stacy A. Whitmore whose telephone number is (571) 272-1685. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, alternate Friday 6:30am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jack Chiang can be reached on (571) 272-7483. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Stacy A Whitmore

Primary Examiner

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SAW

September 15, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SAW', is located below the typed name and title of the examiner.